



www.manhattancountryschool.org

Hope for Los Chavalitos

Alejandro Obando
New York

☀ Values

- Dedication to Give Back
- Hope
- Altruism
- Leadership
- Patriotism
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

If you were one of Alejandro's students, what would you do to help these children?

Who in your life has encouraged you to be the best you can be?

Would you like to create a sister-city school project with another country? Where?

Have you ever thought about taking a trip to a place where you could help?

What does it mean when we say, "The human heart knows no geographical boundaries."

Is there a situation in your life that will always influence your attitudes and actions?

☀ Lessons Learned

Students and teachers can work together to achieve great things.

Wars kill people and leave their children orphaned and homeless.

People from other countries come to America so they can learn to help their own people.

Alejandro Obando is building a school in Nicaragua for some of the 6,000 children left orphaned and homeless by the long Civil War. As a teacher in New York City, he'd found a good life for himself, but he never forgot the desperate poverty of his childhood. Like many children, he sold fake watches and shoes in the streets of his village in order to eke out a living. But Alejandro's grandmother had dreams of something better for him. "Be a good citizen, get your education and help other people," she would say. This is the story about how Alejandro made his grandmother's dreams come true - by inviting his New York students like Daniel and their families to join him in bringing hope - and a chance for a new life - to the children of Nicaragua.

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity and Social Studies : Diversity

Locate Nicaragua on a map and draw a picture featuring its assets and resources. Invite someone from Nicaragua to share their experience of living in this country. Study the history of Nicaragua and the impact of war on its young people and its economy. They once had one of the best health care systems in the world. Write a report comparing this country before and after the war. Study the impact of Hurricane Mitch: the cost, estimated time to rebuild their country.

☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Start a sister-city project with people in a village from a developing country. Collect and ship lightly used clothes and school supplies. Establish pen pals between students. Contact the Manhattan Country School in New York for more ideas: <http://manhattancountryschool.org>. Adopt a child / family overseas and send them useful items for special occasions. Contact agencies of national organizations like the American Red Cross to learn how you can help people in other countries. Organize a raffle to raise funds for a special project. Bring hope to "Los Chavalitos" school in Nicaragua. Organize a trip during school vacation. Contact Foundation for Sustainable Development (<http://www.fsdinternational.org/nicaragua/tola>) to learn about their worldwide web of mediators, teachers, arbitrators and dispute resolution specialists bridging conflict and peace on every continent.

